

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed August 14, 2007, in connection with the above-identified application (hereinafter, the "Office Action"). The Office Action provided a three-month shortened statutory period in which to respond, ending on November 14, 2007. Accordingly, this amendment is timely submitted.

Applicant has fully considered the Office Action and cited references and submits this Reply and Amendment in response to the outstanding rejections. Reconsideration of the application for patent is requested. Applicant does not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections or objections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected or objected-to claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application.

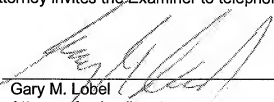
Claims 2-9, 11-19, and 21-23 are pending in this application. The Examiner rejected claims 2-9, 11-18, and 23, and objected to claims 19, 21, and 22. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his indication of allowable subject matter in claims 19, and 21-22. To expedite allowance of this case, Applicant has amended claims 2 and 23 with the limitations of claim 21, and amended claim 22 to depend from claim 2. Further, Applicant has added the limitations of claims 16 and 19 to claim 11. Applicant therefore respectfully requests cancellation of claims 16, 19 and 21. Since all claims, except 23, depend from claims that as now amended, contain the limitations of claims 19 or 21, and claim 23 contains the additional limitation of claim 21, which the Examiner has indicated as containing allowable subject matter, Applicant therefore believes claims 2-9, 11-15, 17-18, and 22-23 to be in a condition for Allowance.

Thus, in view of the foregoing arguments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and Allowance of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR §1.17 which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the application, Applicant's undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

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